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# YOU AND YOUR CLOTHES

## Personal Appearance

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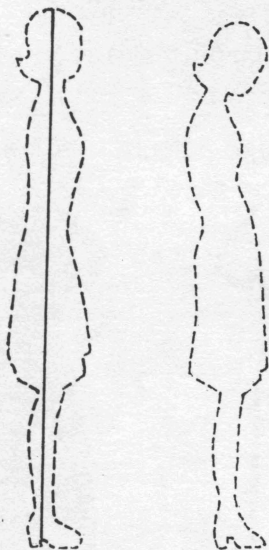


## FOCUS ON FLATTERY

Marlene Odle\*

Poor posture and lazy body motions make appearance unattractive, clothes hang crooked, and you feel tired. Standing straight helps you feel good, look good and act less tired.

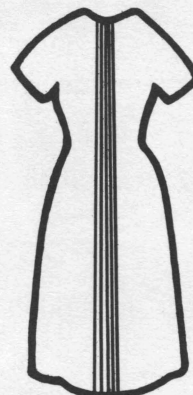
A desirable "line-up" is a straight line running from the top of the ears through the shoulder bone, the center of the hip joint, and the center of the ankle or center of the foot.



Construction details and techniques can flatter your appearance. Conceal figure flaws or emphasize good features with the proper use of line, design, texture and color in the clothes you wear.

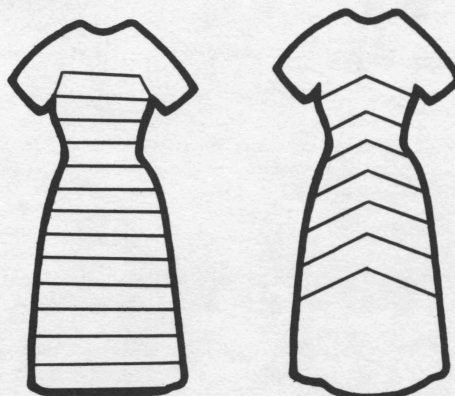
**Line** in dress creates optical illusions.

Lines running up and down make a figure look taller. Vertical line can be created by a row of buttons, a band of another color, a seam, topstitching or pleats.



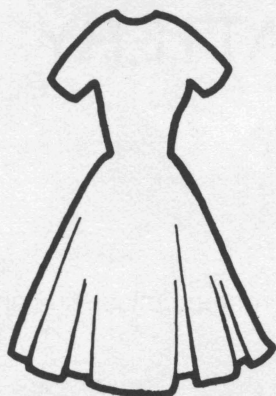
Lines running across give width and make a figure appear wider. Horizontal lines could be created by yokes, contrasting belts, pockets and stripes.

Diagonal lines give a feeling of motion. The V's in this dress move your eye down, away from the body. This design makes large hips look smaller.



\*Extension clothing specialist, The Texas A&M University System.

Flare gives a shortening, fuller effect to the body. These lines of fullness are good for a tall figure and very thin figure.



**Designs** add interest while creating a more flattering figure.

Tall figures can wear large designs.

Short figures should wear small prints, plaids and stripes.

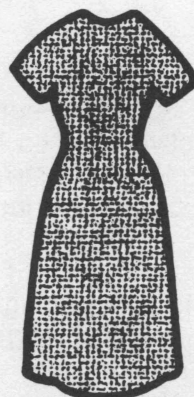
Stout figures can wear small prints and vertical lines.



**Textures** add a touch of beauty when used correctly.

Heavy or shiny textures give a look of added weight.

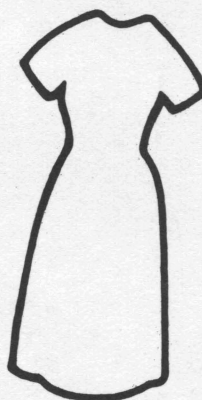
Dull textures give a more slenderizing effect.



**Colors** make a figure look smaller or larger.

Bright and light colors make a figure look larger.

Dark colors make a figure look smaller.



Choose the lines, designs, textures and colors which flatter your figure type.

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